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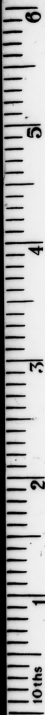
A just and modest vindication of the commissioners . . . Land-bank. London, 1696.

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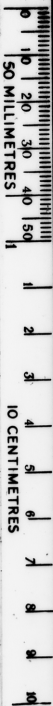
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A Just and Modest
VINDICATION
OF THE
Commissioners

For putting in Execution

The A C T

For Establishing of a

Land-Bank:

WHEREIN

The Objections against them are fully
Stated and Answered.

LONDON,

Printed, and Sold by the Booksellers
of *London* and *Westminster*. 1696.

A Just and Modest

Vindication, &c.

AMongst all the Methods and Contrivances (since the present War) to supply the Government, that none should prove ineffectual or useless, except the Fund given for establishing a Land-Bank, seems something strange when considered : For since we live in a Countrey seated under the best of Climates, productive of all the Necessaries of Life, whose Native Commodities are the Foundation of the greatest Trade and Commerce under Heaven, whereby numerous Families daily arrive at great and plentiful Fortunes : I say, for the Proprietors of such a *Canaan* as this, either not to know, or if known,

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not

not to be able to establish their Interest, must argue the greatest Stupidity, or the least Industry imaginable. And it is plain to any intelligent Man, how the extraordinary Interest of Money has been like a Gangreen to many Estates, and has reduced them to a very mean condition; and the difficulty of mortgaging Land is now so great, that besides the legal Profits, (if the Summ to be borrowed be considerable) the Lender must have a Present made him, before he will condescend to look at the Title. This was a melancholly prospect to Men of good Understanding and good Estates, and therefore it need not remain a Mystery to so many, why the Parliament should be so fond of a Land-Bank, as to refuse this Fund to the Bank of England, and give it to them, since the former is the most beneficial thing to the Landed-man that ever was projected, and the other profitable only to a few Traders, who no doubt will

con-

confederate and unite their strength, to oppose any Contrivance which is likely to advance the Interest of the Landed-Man, and to lessen their own; for had the Land-Bank succeeded, it's evident that the Interest of Money must in a little time have been reduced to 3 l. per Cent. and Land consequently have risen in purchase proportionable to the fall of Money, which the monied and trading Men could not endure to think of, much less to have it brought about; for what could be more ungrateful, than the thoughts of consuming double the time in their Trade, to accumulate that Wealth, which when purchased, will acquire but the same Estate of Inheritance, as what is gotten in half the time, at the rate as Land and Money goes at present: For now its every days experience, that a few years success in Trade, renders Monied-men Masters of so much Wealth, as enables them to purchase the most considerable

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NOTE

This volume has a very
tight binding and while every
effort has been made to repro-
duce the centres, force would
result in damage

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not to be able to establish their Interest, must argue the greatest Stupidity, or the least Industry imaginable. And it is plain to any intelligent Man, how the extraordinary Interest of Money has been like a Gangreen to many Estates, and has reduced them to a very mean condition; and the difficulty of mortgaging Land is now so great, that besides the legal Profits, (if the Summ to be borrowed be considerable) the Lender must have a Present made him, before he will condescend to look at the Title. This was a melancholly prospect to Men of good Understanding and good Estates, and therefore it need not remain a Mystery to so many, why the Parliament should be so fond of a Land-Bank, as to refuse this Fund to the Bank of England, and give it to them, since the former is the most beneficial thing to the Landed-man that ever was projected, and the other profitable only to a few Traders, who no doubt will

con-

confederate and unite their strength, to oppose any Contrivance which is likely to advance the Interest of the Landed-Man, and to lessen their own; for had the Land-Bank succeeded, it's evident that the Interest of Money must in a little time have been reduced to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. and Land consequently have risen in purchase proportionable to the fall of Money, which the monied and trading Men could not endure to think of, much less to have it brought about; for what could be more ungrateful, than the thoughts of consuming double the time in their Trade, to accumulate that Wealth, which when purchased, will acquire but the same Estate of Inheritance, as what is gotten in half the time, at the rate as Land and Money goes at present: For now its every days experience, that a few years success in Trade, renders Monied-men Masters of so much Wealth, as enables them to purchase the most considerable

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ble Estates in the Kingdom; so that at this rate in some few years, the Traders will invade the ancient Gentry and take away their *Place and Nation*. These, and such like Considerations, were the cause why the Land Bank met so little Encouragement and so strong opposition, for when the Gentlemen of the House of Commons would by no means be induced to lay aside a Proposition, so apparently advantageous to all Landed-men in the Kingdom, then an Exchequer-Bank must be trumped up, either to hinder the other, or at least to protract time which they could not fail of effecting; and therefore they did not desist from pressing that forward, 'till it was twice cast out by a division of the House; and notwithstanding they were first beaten from their Out-works, yet they had a reserve still, hoping that if a Bill passed in favour of a Land-Bank to tye a mill-stone about its Neck, the

would

would not fail of sinking it, which by great Industry was effected, by providing that the Exchequer might issue out their Bills immediately for 500000 l. and for the rest, if the Bank did not raise it. What was this, but a dividing the Interest as well as the Money? and they who were so fond of the Bank under the Exchequer Management, would be very little concerned whether the other had success or not; and they who saw further into the mill-stone than others, gave it out in a modish whisper, that the Bank would never come to any thing, which discouraged hundreds from subscribing, which no doubt was the intent of the Parties. Another choak-stone was the requiring so vast a Summ as 1282000 l. before they could be a Corporation; for if the subscribing 500000 l. would have done, they would not have been obliged to ask much so large a Premium as they did, which

which (by the way) was not so Extraneous thought, unreasonable, for ev-
 vagant as their Enemies represented. Mole-hill seemed a Mountain, and
 to be, considering the scarcity of Money were lookt upon as such as in-
 ney at that time, when most Men valended to raise a Rebellion rather than
 ed a mill'd Crown as if it had bee Money : And it was something strange,
 an ancient Medal of one of their Ance- to see such an indifferency to those who
 cestors ; neither did they themselves endeavourd to bring in such a Mass
 (whatever they pretended,) think it of Wealth, but it could not be the
 since they were of Opinion, that Money that was disliked, but the Me-
 it been complied with, the Method of raising it ; for the grand De-
 could not have been raised ; but bate was, Whether these Chimera's
 is an easie matter, to find a stick and Idols of Fancie, called E-
 bear a Dog. All Scruples, tho' new Bills must do it or not, which at last
 so dark and nice, must be laid ho- resolved in the affirmative, 5 *l. per Cent.*
 of, and all the weak Sophistry the for the first payment, which (by the
 were Masters of, must now be furbill way) is but 25 *s. per Cent.* for the
 ed up to attack the Land-Bank ; the whole Summ, is thought sufficient, and
 that imprudent and unreasonable d too spare, for such as shall subscribe
 mand (as it was called) was not their Money to the Land-Bank, (less
 bold as welcome to some, who were then ever was offered when the base
 glad of that or any other occasion Money was currant, which People
 deny the Land-Bank ; and had the parted with without any consideration
 Demands been but a fifth part of the of the Security,) that one would think
 they were, it's likely they would have that Proposal was rather made by way
 bee of

of Mortification for their former
travagant Demands, then the utmost
that could be afforded on such an Oc-
casion. And it's Obſervable, when
this gracious Offer would not bring
forth one Penny, (as it was not like
it ſhould) the Commiſſioners were
gain ſent for, and it was the Opin-
ion of moſt that were preſent, they
heard the Questions propoſed to them,
and the Answer they gave, that there
would be an Agreement, when at the
Event ſhewed there was nothing leſs
intended, and that they were ſent for
imagining them illiterate enough to
make illegal Demands, as asking the
Premium upon the Salt Fund, or that
have Guineas taken at above 22 s. a
laſt the gracious 5 l. per Cent. is again
offered, with a *Neplus ultra* tacked to
it, this Method ſerved to get time,
and was like throwing out a Barrel to
a Whale to play with, whiſt the Ship
eſcapes; for by this dallying the Com-
miſſioners

ſſions were diverted from thinking
any other means to raiſe the Money,
which without doubt was the thing
deſired by ſome. And I cannot omit
the Queſtion that was asked, and not
being answered to their ſatisfaction,
as was pretended) was then alledged
the reaſon they could not comply
with our Propoſals, and that was,
*What Security we could give of raiſing the
whole Summ?* a very pretty Queſtion,
and which would without doubt put
the Rogues to a Non-plus, and ought
to be answered Poet *Bayes* his way,
after a little pausing and ſcratching
ones Head, to ſay, *I gad I won't tell you;*
for if they ſhould have drawn out
four or five of the ſtoutest Fellows
amongſt them, each worth 40 or
50000 l. and ſent for a Publick No-
tary immediately, and went forthwith
to *Noverint Univerſi*, it's ten to one they
would not be ſatiſfied, or thought the
Security ſufficient. I dare ſay they
would

would not have taken the two Nave ever since their Incorporation them Crowns, nor any other been so useful to the Government, not of Princes in *Europe* for Security: Only by lending their own Money, but that cruel demand put them beyond every Bodies else they could lay hands all hopes, and it was utterly impossible to erect another Bank in pre-judice of such a one, and upon the breach less that Question had been put to the publick Faith too, must certainly, that the *East-India* Company be an ungrateful and wicked (who design'd to subscribe part of the money) might have prevailed with the Great Mogul to give Security to raise the Summ.

But to come to the Justice of the Cause: It is Objected, That the Parliament having incorporated a Society of Men, by the Name of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, (mark the exclusive particle *The*) had debarred themselves of the Power of setting up another Bank, and therefore after the Bank of *England* had advanced their Money for the publick Good, (without any consideration for their own Interest) and

Now if this be a Crime, it is not the first that Parliaments have been guilty of in that nature, having served the Church of *England* the same Service before, which all People must allow was by Law establish'd, and was as much the Church of *England* as the other is the Bank of *England*, making the word *The* in its utmost latitude: Neither can it be denied, but that the Church of *England* has been as serviceable to the Government as the Bank, and is much better calculated for so being, than this or any other Bank can possibly be.

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And

And in truth, the Bank hath been rather serviceable to the Subjects than the Government, for if we reflect on the Proceedings of the Bank for the last six Months, we must take it for granted that the Bank may be contented to see the People to be in their Minority, and run the same Fate with the Church, have chosen the Bank for their Guide, since it was as much the Intent of the Legislators to have but one Faith as one Bank. It is well known that the fire of living above our Fortunes, has been an Epidemical Distemper in the People of this Kingdom, and especially to the Gentry: Now the Consequence of the Toleration will be setting up as many Churches as there are different Opinions amongst Mankind, yet the Directors of the Church of England put all other Churches under Contribution, and receive Tithes from all. To this may be said, that the Church have a Legal Right to Tithes, and can force people to pay them, which the Bank (to their Grief) have not, to force people to deposite their Money; but if the payments of Tithes had been as voluntary

the Luxury of Life. Now to do any thing against the interest of these our spiritual and Temporal Benefactors, must argue the highest ingratitude. But the Bank may be contented to see the People to be in their Minority, and run the same Fate with the Church, have chosen the Bank for their Guide, since it was as much the Intent of the Legislators to have but one Faith as one Bank. It is well known that the fire of living above our Fortunes, has been an Epidemical Distemper in the People of this Kingdom, and especially to the Gentry: Now the Consequence of the Toleration will be setting up as many Churches as there are different Opinions amongst Mankind, yet the Directors of the Church of England put all other Churches under Contribution, and receive Tithes from all. To this may be said, that the Church have a Legal Right to Tithes, and can force people to pay them, which the Bank (to their Grief) have not, to force people to deposite their Money; but if the payments of Tithes had been as voluntary

luntary as putting Money into a Bank, it had been no more unlawful to establish a Toleration than to send 100 Miles for a word rather than have used it; and therefore it can be no Crime, *in foro Conscientie*, to set up another Bank.

But here perhaps they will Object that if the Church were really as used as the Bank, yet that is an aggravation of the Crime rather than an Excuse, which is very true; but I say that either have been so ill used or the publick Faith broke to either for nothing passes in an Act of Parliament, but what is given by express words, or something necessarily implied. I suppose the Bank does not pretend, that another Bank is excluded, by express words; and it is the most unreasonable thing in Nature to make the particle *The* such a Mortar, as to carry in its belly all the Cash in the Kingdom, and to be destructive to all future Corporations and Bodies Politick. But I dare be bold to affirm, that if the Parliament had suspected this Particle to have imported but the 20th. part of what is by some suggested, they would have sent 100 Miles for a word rather than have used it; and therefore it can be no Crime, *in foro Conscientie*, to set up another Bank.

And tho' the Directors of the Bank of England were not blameable, for using all their Interest to hinder the Act from passing, yet when (notwithstanding all the opposition that could be made) the Act passed, and the King's Affairs, and the Affairs of all Europe, in a great measure depending upon the Success of it, then, I say, to appear so vigorously against it, and to strain so hard, as to bankrupt themselves, rather than the Land-bank should rise, favoured rankly of Malice and Self-interest. Neither can the Directors of the Bank of England be taken by any intelligent Man, to be such Patriots as they would have the World suppose them to be; but

I will detain you no longer in the Porch, but proceed to the Objections made against the Gentlemen that propos'd and prosecuted the Land-Bank.

First, That they undertook the raising 2564000 l. at 7 l. per Cent. perpetual Interest, redeemable by Parliament.

Secondly, That contrary to their first Proposals, they insist'd upon an Extravagant Premium of 300000 l.

Thirdly, That they were not able to raise the Money upon the Premium they desired, nor could give any Security to do it.

Fourthly, That they ruin'd the Credit of the Bank of *England*.

I propose to answer these Objections, and then to shew,

First, That the Bank of *England* through their Covetousness and want of Understanding, ruin'd their own Credit.

Secondly, If this Fund had been given

either to the Bank of *England*, or the *Exchequer* alone, it could not have been so easily rais'd as by a Land-Bank.

Thirdly, That there is no way to restore Paper-Credit but by a New Bank.

The First Objection is, That they undertook the raising of 2564000 l. at 7 l. per Cent. perpetual Interest.

To this I *Answer*, That neither the Gentlemen concern'd in the Land-Bank, or any Person, or Body of Persons in *England*, did, or could undertake so great a Summ; but when Methods were propos'd in the House of Commons for raising this Money, they offer'd their Opinions, that it might be rais'd by a Land-Bank, and that 7 l. per Cent. was sufficient Encouragement, as the Treasury and Courtiers thought it might be best rais'd by an *Exchequer-Bank*, and others by different Methods; and if they were mistaken, (as I shall endeavour

to shew they were not) it is what the Treasury were in their Exchequer-bank, and what any one else in probability would have been, considering the different circumstances of the Kingdom when the Proposals were made, and when the Money was to be raised.

Second Objection. *That they insisted upon an extravagant Premium of 3000000.*

To this I *Answer*, They were obliged to it.

1. By the Discouragement and Obstructions they met with in the House of Commons in the passing their Bill.

2. The Condition of the Kingdom in relation to Money and Credit was very different when the Proposals were made, and when the Money was to be raised, and therefore they were obliged to enlarge their Demands.

First, The Difficulties they met with in passing their Bill were these.

First. The Members of the Bank of England were excluded from subscribing.

See

Secondly, They were not to be Incorporated upon a less Summ than 1282000 *l.* by which Discouragement not one in ten would subscribe till they were assured of being a Corporation, esteeming that Priviledge to be half their bargain, and fearing the Subscriptions might not amount to that Summ; whereas if the Subscribers had been qualified to be a Corporation upon the subscribing 500000 *l.* that Summ had been subscribed in three days by the Commissioners themselves, and the Members of *Exeter-Exchange*; and if they had been once entituled to a Corporation, there could be no doubt but the whole Money would be subscribed afterwards, since it would be then a greater Encouragement to come in at *Parr*, than upon 20 *per Cent.* Premium before.

Thirdly, When they offered a Clause to their Act, to naturalize such as would subscribe 500 *l.* and had reasonable Assurance from the Forreigners upon

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the Exchange, that such encouragement would bring in 400000 *l.* that men of the Bank of *England*, and others, clause was thrown out by some Gentle Opposers of the Land-Bank, would men that they could not suspect would often insult over them upon their Successive Enemies to a Naturalization, and cess in the House of Commons, and probably had not been so if it had ask them what was become of been offered upon any other Occasi- their Bank, tho' now they call them on than to assist the Land-Bank. Jacobites, and threaten to impeach

Fourthly, Their Bill was delayed for them, for not doing what they themselves rendered impossible for them long, by the opposition it found, that they could not get their Commission passed to do.

before the 4th. of *May*, by which means The second Reason I gave, was, it was left in the power of the Treas- the different Circumstances of the fury to refuse or take the fourth part Kingdom when the Proposals were of their Subscriptions in clipped Money, made, and when the Money was to which was a particular hardship upon be raised : As,

a great number of People, who avoided putting in their clipped Money upon it was not known whether the Parliament would bring them down or no. other Funds, in hopes of subscribing it, and making their first payments with 2. Paper-Credit was good, and the it in this Bank ; and reasonably hoped Bank of *England* and the Goldsmiths since they paid to the recompence, to paid their Bills punctually, whereas have their clipped Money made good to at the time this Money was to be raised, both refused.

And I believe it has been every 3. Tallies were equal, or better than
one B 4

than Money, whereas afterwards they would cost them full as much to Discount were 20, 30, and 40 *per Cent.* Discount the several Species aforesaid for by which means People could make Money, which they propos'd to pay a much greater advantage of their Money to the King.

ney, and therefore would not subscribe. It is to be Observed here, (1.) If the it upon the same terms as they thought 300000 *l.* desired had been granted before reasonable.

4. It was hoped at first not above not been so great as the Bank of *England's*; for the Bank of *England* having 60 *per Cent.* would be called in, when 100000 *l.* *per Ann.* for 1200000 *l.* as afterwards by the Universal Bank they gave but 12 years purchase for of Credit, and want of Money, than their Fund; besides, they had allowed one thought of paying less than the whole Summe subscribed.

5. There was an actual want of Money in Specie in the Kingdom: Whereas, if 300000 *l.* had been Money in Specie in the Kingdom deducted out of this Fund, the remaining seven Millions in and out of the Exchequer had been 2264000 *l.* which divided by 179000, the Interest they cheque being rendered useless, they were to receive makes near 13 years which means the Commissioners saw were to receive makes near 13 years it impossible to get the Money subscribed, and paid in Specie, and therefore and goodness of Money considered, fore designed to take Tallies, good When the Bank of *England* was raised, Goldsmiths Bills, and Bank Bills, and and when the Land-Bank was to be clipt Money by weight at a high raised, any one but themselves will rate for Subscriptions, and so asked believe that the latter deserved at least 300000 *l.* Premium, believing it equal Encouragement; and its probable would

bable the Parliament would have got bringing in the Plate, as the Summ
ven it, if they had forseen the Difficultie demanded.
ties that have since happened.

2. That the Comissioners did not any Money so cheap since.
ask the 300000 l. out of the Sale The Third Objection. *That they were*
Fund, but upon the Exchequer in got able to raise the Money upon the Pre
neral, which could not be paid them they asked, nor could they give any
but by the Consent of the Parliament security to do it.
and so they left themselves to the Par This Objection justifies them in
liament, whether they deserved it asking the Premium refused; for it is
no. very unjust to tax them for asking

3. At the time they asked thoso much, and yet to confels it was
Tallies on the Exchequer in generalot enough to induce people to sub-
it would have cost 40 l. per Cent. tribute the Money. However, I offer
discount them, which reduced thethese Reasons that it would be sub-
Demands to less than 200000 l. tribed.

4. If their Terms had been com 1. They Proposed they might open
plied with, the greatest part of their Books for Private Subscriptions,
Subscriptions would have been made not doubting within three dayes they
in clipt Money and Plate, which might bring Hands for near the summe
would have been coined to encrease be raised, which was not thought fit
our Species of Money, and it's prob be granted to them, it being Object-
able would save the Nation nexted, it would be a Disencouragement to
year near as much in the recompence the real Subscriptions.
for clipt Money, and Encouragement 2. When they were sent for to at-
for tend

tend the Lords Justices, and were asked, *What Security they could give of the whole Summe?* They Answered, *That they computed the Commissioners themselves, and the Members of Exeter would subscribe 700000 l. they believed they should be able to bring as much more by their Interest and Acquisition, and they thought it reasonable to propose the whole Kingdom would subscribe rest.*

3. That they thought the Nation as I said before) and it was not in of the thing would admit of no other power of the Commissioners to Security than what they offered, *finde* any one from subscribing that it could not be expected that any number of Persons would enter into the Subscriptions would have stopt cognizances to raise the Summ. when they were qualified to be a Corporation,

4. It was solely to their Disadvantage, I believe most People are of tage, if they did not subscribe to his Opinion now, that 1282000 l. would Corporation, since by the failure to better serve his Majesties occasions, would only entitle themselves to 7 than nothing, though the Arithmetick Cent. in the Exchequer, which now of that time was, that half was less would give 70 l. for, and therefore none.

it is to be presumed they would take The Fourth Objection is, *That they such care for their own sakes, as would the Credit of the Bank of England;* and

lose 30 per Cent. of their Money; which if they did not, it would solely depend to the advantage of the Proprietors of the Exchequer-Bank, who would have the Money that was subscribed to circulate their own Bills.

5. When they became a Corporation, it cannot be doubted but the whole Money would be quickly subscribed, since then the advantage of subscribing would be much greater,

as I said before) and it was not in of the thing would admit of no other power of the Commissioners to Security than what they offered, *finde* any one from subscribing that it could not be expected that any number of Persons would enter into the Subscriptions would have stopt cognizances to raise the Summ. when they were qualified to be a Corporation,

it is to be presumed they would take The Fourth Objection is, *That they such care for their own sakes, as would the Credit of the Bank of England;* and

and here these worthy Patriots must hold with the Parliament, and say, they broke their Faith with them, in setting up another Bank. *I Answer,*

1. There are no words in the Act of Parliament, that directly or indirectly exclude the Parliament from setting up another Bank: The Act only incorporates a Body of Men to sue, and be sued, which if it should amount to a prohibitory Clause, excludes King and Parliament ever hereafter to grant a Corporation, since every Corporation, single person, or number of persons in *England*, may lawfully do what these Gentlemen pretend to have a Monopoly of.

2. The Land-Bank was excluded from discounting Bills of Exchange, lending Money upon Pawns, dealing in Bullion, &c. and every thing but lending upon Land, and to the Government, and therefore could possibly be no disadvantage to the Bank of *England*, who do not pretend to lend upon Land.

3. If the other Bank had taken effect, it's probable the Bank of *England* would have had more Cash left with them than before, since it would have been the Interest of both Banks to have agreed, and then without doubt they might have divided the Goldsmiths profits between them, and so each Bank have more Deposites than the Bank of *England* had before.

4. If the setting up a Land-Bank would be a Disadvantage to the Bank of *England*, it was no injustice to establish them, since the Parliament gave no Warrant to the contrary, and their bargain was great enough notwithstanding; and greater than they thought was fit to be granted to the Land-Bank, who were to raise more than double the Summ, in less time, when the Difficulties were greater, and the Coin better; they had but 7 l. per Cent. excluded from many Advantages the Bank of *England* had, and were obliged besides to lend 500000 l. per Annum,

num, at 3 l. 10 s. 0 d. per Cent. Interest foreseen, that after the 4th. of May the

5. If the establishing the Land-Bank Demands upon them would be greater did encrease the Demands upon them before, for admitting the World Bank of England, it was caused had as good an Opinion of their Credit the unreasonable opposition they gave it as ever, yet the necessity of People to it, which failing of the Effort call upon them for Money, for they proposed, gave them that the whole Silver Species of England reputation that always attends the being sunk in a day, they might be afraid that are overcome, for the World haired all People would want Money, reason to believe they understood the for their ordinary occasions; and what own Interest best; and when they seemer opinion they had of their Security to wind up their whole happiness, would call for it when they had defeating the Land-Bank, and miscare demands, and therefore they ought ed, it is not to be wondered if other to have made Provisions to answer People thought their Condition to them.

worse then it was.

That the Covetousness and war many of their Bills as they could, of Understanding of the Bank of England whereas they issued out Bills till the land was the Occasion of their loss 4th. of May, and how many since they Credit; To prove which I shall shew, stop their payments is best known to

1. That they left undone those themselves.

things which they ought to do.

2. They have done those things as for Tallies and clipt Money, when which they ought not to do. Tallies were par, and clipt Money cur-

1. To the first, They ought to have tant, and Guineas playing between 22 s. and

foreseen

C

and

and 24. s. which they were three Weeks or a Month.

4. They might have called in the 40. l. per Cent. either before or immediately after the 1th. of May, and kept Money in their Pockets, which they owed to other people.

5. When they could not pay their Demands, they might have allowed the difference which their Creditors gave to discount their Bills, since it is more reason the Debtor should pay it than the Creditor.

6. They might have allowed the Interest they received, or at least Legal Interest, when they were not able to pay the Principal.

To the last they Object, That they offered Tallies to any that demanded them, which was the Security they had. I Answer,

1. It lyes upon them to prove, they ever offered any Tallies payable within three Months, but only such as it was worth 30 l. per Cent. to discount.

2. If they had offered such Tallies, Creditors did not trust the Exchequer, but them, and expected their Money upon demand, as the Bank is liable by Law to pay it, or otherwise they would rather have put their Money into the Exchequer for Tallies themselves, and have receiv'd the Interest from the beginning, than let the Bank receive the Interest of their Money till they call for it, and then give them but part of that Security which they might have had at first, and upon such Funds as the Bank thought fit to spare, whereas themselves might have chosen their own Funds.

If these Methods would not have fully answered their Creditors, at least it would have given them the Characters of honest Men, and of doing all that they were able to do.

Next I am to prove the Bank of England have done those things which they ought not to do.

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1. They

1. They extended their Credit beyond 1200000 *l.* and by that means run in debt more than they were able to pay, whereas it is very evident the Act of Parliament designed to confine their Credit to 1200000 *l.* which the Fund was answerable for, by obliging them not to issue out a greater Summ upon it; not imagining that they would evade the Act, by issuing out Notes which bound not themselves, nor was any ways Security to those that accepted them. For it is not to be conceived the Parliament designed they should borrow any Money, but what they could give Security for, and not under the shelter of an Act of Parliament deceive innocent People, who do not know a Corporation is not bound, but under their Common-Seal.

2. When they had thus evaded the Act, and were afraid to be called to account by the next Parliament, to sweeten the Countrey-Gentlemen they promised to lend Money upon Land,

to any one that offered them good Security, which I hope they have more modestly then to say they have performed, and by that means have justly raised the indignation of the Nobility, and Gentry against them, who hoped to be eased from the Extortion of Scriveners and Usurers.

3. They undertook a foolish Bargain, to return Money for *Flanders*, by which they have lost a Summ best known to themselves, whereas it might have done better by the Merchants, whose Business it was, and who understood it better. They alledge, they did it to serve the Government, but I think it will be hard to satisfy the World, that they were contented to lose 80000 *l.* to save the King 20000 *l.* and therefore it will be rather accounted their Folly than Zeal.

4. Within few days before the 4th of May, they gave Bills payable upon demand for clipped Money, whereas it is probable, the same persons would have

have been contented to have taken them payable six Months after, or else they need not have given them at all.

5. By their unreasonable Opposition on they gave to the Land-Bank, they rendered the raising of the Summ proposed ineffectual, and consequently disabled themselves, by not receiving much Money as was appropriated to their own use out of that Fund.

6. *Q^d*. Whether they did not add themselves to the Treasury, to have their Bills refused in the Customs? so, it was a great diminution to the Credit.

7. To finish their ruine, they lent 200000 l. to the King, when they paid but 5 l. per Cent. of their Debt, and some say to hinder the Land-Bank Proposals from being accepted.

Here I am aware I shall be answered, that they did it out of Zeal to his Majesty, and to serve the Government; this they think will justify all their Miscarriages, and protect them from action.

acting against the Rules of Justice and Prudence, therefore it ought to be examined. They have served the Government, I grant it, but it was to serve themselves; a Miller would be as good a Friend; they have lent the Government Money, but upon as great Interest as the Parliament allowed, and greater than they could get elsewhere.

They have lent other Peoples Money, and not their own, and at the same time refuse to pay whole to whom it belongs; whereas if their Zeal for the Government had been as great as they pretended, they would have raised Money in their private Capacities, and so lent what was their own, or at least given their Creditors the Interest they received, but instead of that they keep part of their principal Money in their hands, and what they have already called in for they pay 6 l. per Cent. to themselves, though they deny it to their Creditors.

I will put them two Questions.

1. If

1. If a Man robs another of his Money, and lends it to the Government, will it justifie this Robbery?

2. Whether detaining a Mans Money from him, and lending it at Interest without giving the Interest receiv'd, is not *in foro Conscientie* as bad as taking it from him?

I believe if the Scene were changed from *Grocers-Hall* to *Lombard-street*, I shall all be of an Opinion.

I leave with a Goldsmith 1000 *l.* gives me his Note payable upon demand, I go to him six Months hence and ask him for my Money, he tells me the Government was in great straits, and he lent them my Money. I tell him I gave him no such Commission, but finding my self remediless I ask him to allow me the Interest he receives, he refuses it; I then ask him to give me his Bond, and Legal Interest, he refuses that; I fancy if I should pull him by the Nose, I should be justified by most of those Gentlemen that

are of another Opinion, in the case of the Bank of *England*.

The next thing I have to prove, is, that if this had been given to the Exchequer alone; or to the Bank of *England*, it would not have been so easily raised as by a Land-Bank: And first for an Exchequer-Bank.

1. The Projectors themselves propose 400000 *l.* always to lye still to circulate their Bills, (which is to be used to no other purpose whatsoever); which must be wanting upon the Salt-Fund, to answer His Majesties Occasions, or else must be raised upon another; and so 400000 *l.* must be raised extraordinary, whereas the Land-Bank asked but three.

2. If the Demands upon the Exchequer should exceed the 400000 *l.* which it's likely they would, (every Body knowing their Stock) the Exchequer will be broke, and the Credit of the Government sunk; whereas the Land-Bank may be able to answer

all their Bills; or if they should not, the Government will suffer no discredit by it.

3. If the Exchequer should refuse Payment, the Creditor has no remedy, but upon 7 *l. per Cent.* which he will not value at 70 *l.* whereas if the Bank should refuse Payment, he would have Remedy for his whole Money.

Note, If the Exchequer-Bank should have Credit, Interest upon Land must be at 8 or 10 *per Cent.* For it is not to be imagined any one will lend upon Land at the usual Interest, when he can have it upon demand, with 4 to 5 *running Interest*; and therefore such a Bank can't be of as great Advantage as a Bank that would raise the Land, and lessen the Interest of Money; for an Exchequer-Bank can be of no use to any one, but such as have the management of the 400000 *l.* which may be made use of to lend his Majesty upon Funds, and to circulate the *Teller* Notes, which some say has been

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common practice, since they have set up the Trade of Banking.

2. That the Bank of *England* could not raise this Summ as well as the Land-Bank; to illustrate which it must be examined, which way they could propose to raise it, and that must be either

1. By issuing out Bills upon their Credit.

2. Or by opening their Books for New Subscriptions.

As to the first: I suppose they will not pretend to say, that issuing out two Millions and a half of Bills more, payable upon demand, will enable them the better to answer those that are already out; and if they open their Books for New Subscriptions, they must let the New Subscribers come in at *Par*, with their Original Stock or not; and it is not likely they will do the former, since by the passing a Bill in their Favour, their Original 160 *l.* would be worth 150 *l.* and the letting New Sub-

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scriptions

scriptions come in upon equal terms. That there is no way to restore Paper must reduce their flock to its Original Credit but by a New Bank. at more, if he can subscribe at *Par*; and Paper will never go for Money, but if they open their Books for Subscription when I can have Money for it upon terms, according to the Improved Value and Demand; for no Man will part with his Money to a New Fund, where he can have Money upon any other Condition. Paper may come in upon equal terms, that is, for no Consideration, and therefore Paper can never be restored, unless the Bank of England and Goldsmiths pay their Notes, or

3. But admitting they would have another Fund is let up that can so much Self-denial to accept Subscription. 1. The Bank of England if they raise their must pay their Bills that are not possibly do it; their Money as it is out already, as well as the 25640000 became due from the Exchequer, is whereas the Land-Bank are to pay not enough to answer 5 per Cent. of more than they receive. their Debts, and they can never have

4. Most People would rather subscribe any Credit till they can answer all Demands, which must require greater has lost its Credit. Summs then they have, or can possibly get.

Therefore I infer, if it could be raised by a Land-Bank, it could not be raised by this Fund. 2. If they had Money enough to answer all Demands, it is probable it

The next thing I have to shew, is would be all called from them; for
That
Repu-

Reputation is so nice a thing, that it's once blown upon, it is rarely recovered, especially in a matter that nearly concerns us, as parting with Money; for it will be a hard matter induce me to trust one, that through Indiscretion or Design has deceived me.

3. It cannot be imagined that any one will bring in Money to be deposited with them, for that is to pay 100 *l.* and get 5 *l.* with a great deal of trouble when I want it again.

4. The giving them a New Fund is enabling them to cheat more People for by the Monies that rise upon they must not only purchase the Fund, but answer the Bills that are put out before; and if their Credit should not be so good natur'd to stand their Demands, they must their Payments. As to the Goldsmiths, reviving Credit, I suppose no Man expects Reformation from them, or that any thing will make them honest but a Cata-

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strophe : And of the Exchequer-Credit we have had an Essay already, which with what I have said of it before, is sufficient, therefore I argue, that Paper Credit can be restored by no other means, than by a New Bank, and settling a Fresh Fund of Credit.
